



# Public lectures explore powering space missions on Mars

March 26, 2018

## Patrick McClure and David Poston will discuss their Kilopower nuclear reactor project during three Frontiers in Science lectures

LOS ALAMOS, N.M., March 26, 2018—Los Alamos nuclear scientists Patrick McClure and David Poston will discuss the small nuclear reactor developed at the Laboratory to power missions on Mars during three Frontiers in Science lectures beginning April 2 in Albuquerque.

"When we imagine sending humans to live on Mars, the moon or other planets in the not-so-distant future, a key question is: what kind of power source is small yet potent enough to reliably power an extraterrestrial habitat, and also make fuel for the trip home?" McClure said.

The project, known as Kilopower, is being developed in conjunction with NASA. In the talk, Los Alamos project lead McClure and chief reactor designer Poston will address the design and testing of the reactor, and its possible use for a range of applications in space exploration.

McClure and Poston talk about the challenges solved by the project in a recent video posted to the [Laboratory's YouTube channel](#).

All Frontiers in Science presentations begin at 7 p.m. and are free of charge. The talks are:

- Monday, April 2 at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, 1801 Mountain Road NW, Albuquerque
- Wednesday, April 4 at the Unitarian Church, 1738 N Sage Loop, Los Alamos
- Tuesday, April 10 at Jemez Rooms, Santa Fe Community College, 6401 Richards Avenue, Santa Fe

Sponsored by the Fellows of Los Alamos National Laboratory, the Frontiers in Science lecture series is intended to increase local public awareness of the diversity of science and engineering research at the Laboratory.

For more information, call (505) 667-7251 or email [David Moore](#).

**Los Alamos National Laboratory**

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